

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2 and 4-21 are pending in this application. Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend on claim 1. New claim 21 has been added.

Claims 1-20 were rejected as anticipated by Best (US 2005/0034147), or obvious in view of Best and other references.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to remove the objectionable "beyond" language, and instead explicitly set forth that (a) user presence is detected, and (b) a status of the present user is detected. Embodiments of this status include on the phone and reading, as set forth in table 3 of the application and dependent claims 5 and 17. The new language gives explicit status of the user which is not the mere presence discussed in Best.

In addition, Best is primarily a presence detector. This presence detection can be done by motion detection, infrared, an RFID tag, or image recognition (see ¶ 0022, 0023). Best identifies the user presence for a variety of reasons, such as displaying a users home web page when the user is detected (¶ 0028). In a further embodiment, in ¶ 0039, Best describes updating a "presence database." Best says this database is accessible to others, who can use the information to send an instant message, an email or a phone call. Best does not show updating the status inside an IM application, rather in a separate database.

Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the status in the IM application is updated. Best does not show or suggest "an Application Program Interface module for the IM application, communicatively coupled to the information interpretation module, for receiving the interpreted information and updating the IM application regarding the user." In addition, Best does not show or suggest "wherein the Application Program Interface module is configured to update the user's status on the IM application." Best is directed to mere presence, and the use of that knowledge for multiple applications.

Claim 4 has been amended to further set forth that the status information is set forth in a buddy window. This is shown in Fig. 3 and associated description, and thus does not add new matter. Best does not show or suggest providing status information in a buddy window of an IM application.

Claim 11 similarly sets forth updating status in the IM application. Also, claim 12 has been amended to set forth that the status is provided in a buddy window.

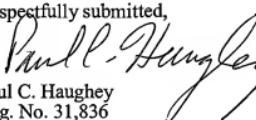
New claim 21 combines multiple features with the elements of claim 1. In particular, claim 21 sets forth that the status information is set forth in a buddy window. Also, claim 21 sets forth that the user's status comprises at least one of available, busy, on the phone, and away from the desk. Also, claim 21 specifies that the multimedia information includes at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information. Thus, claim 21 is believed allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, and additionally for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 4.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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